# Required Readings (Excerpted from Tibetan sources) for Geshe Thupten Palsang's Fall 2015 Course on Emptiness at (Dip) Tse Chok Ling Monastery.

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# Lama Tsongkhapa's Great Treatise on the Stages of the Path to Enlightenment (lam rim chen mo - সুহ'ক্স'অয়'ইয়'ক্স'র্ট) - Excerpt¹

रटः क्रुट्-ग्रीः अन्त्रेतात्मकान्तरः चल्चिनः हे व्ह्रमः क्र्रेनिम् वाकान्यः मुक्षकात्मन्त्रेत्वात्मन्त्रः वाकान्यः मुक्षान्यः विश्वान्यः विश्वान्यः

Seek certainty in the following manner: As explained before, form a **clear mental image** of the **object to be refuted by reasoning**. [For that] you should contemplate well and identify the intrinsically existing [person] superimposed by the ignorance in your mental continuum.

दे:ब्रब्स-स्टानिब्र-दे:ब्रद्ध-स्टानिब्र-दे:ब्रुक्स-स्टानिब्र-स्टानिव्य-स्टानिब्र-स्टानिब्र-स्टानिब्र-स्टानिक्र-स्टानिक्र-स्टानिक्य-स्टानिक्र-स्टानिक्य-स्टानिक्र-स्टानिक्र-स्टानिक्र-स्टानिक्र-स्टा

Then focus on how, if there were such an intrinsically existing [person], it could only be one with or different [from its aggregates], and how there would be logical inconsistencies in both of those positions. Develop certainty about these inconsistencies. Finally, consolidate your certainty that the person does not exist intrinsically to the slightest degree. Practise this aspect of emptiness often.

त्वर्मित्र त्वर्मित्र स्थानित्र स्थानित्य स्थानित्र स्थानित्य स्थानित्य स्थानित्य स्थानित्य स्थानित्य स्थानित्य स्थानित्य स्य

Then bring to mind the [conventional] person who undeniably appears. Turn your mind to dependent-arising, wherein [that person] is posited as the accumulator of karma and the experiencer of effects, and find certainty as to how dependent-arising is tenable without intrinsic existence.

१२.याध्रेशतयाताः तम् स्त्रूटः ततः क्रें त्रायाचुयाशायह्नेत्रात्याश्चेताशायह्नेत्र है। श्रेयाः निष्याः स्त्रूटः याः श्रेयाशायाः त्रुटः प्रायाः स्त्रूटः याः स्त्रेयः स्त्रीयः याः स्त्रूटः याः स्त्र्यः स्त्रीयः याः स्त्रूटः याः स्त्र्यः स्त्रूटः याः स्त्र्यः याः स्त्रूटः याः स्त्र्यः स्त्र्यः स्त्र्यः स्त्रूटः याः स्त्र्यः स्त्र्यः स्त्रूटः याः स्त्रूटः याः स्त्र्यः स्त्रूटः याः स्त्र्यः स्त्रूटः याः स्त्रूटः स्त्रूटः याः स्त्रूटः याः स्त्रूटः याः स्त्रूटः याः स्त्रूटः स

When [the lack of intrinsic existence and dependent-arising] seem contradictory, think about how they are not contradictory, taking an example such as the reflection [of a face in a mirror].

1

¹ Vol. 3, p. 303, \*. Pp. 746-7. 🎾 | মঙ্গুমামী নুর্ভিন্দে মান্তম মুর্মামার্চিন্দ্র মান্তম মুর্দামার্ক্তম মুর্দামার্ক্তম মুর্দ্দিমার্ক্তম মুর্দামার্ক্তম মুর্দামার্দামার মুর্দামার্ক্তম মুর্দামার্ক্তম মুর্দামার্দামার মুর্দামার মুর্দামার্দামার মুর্দামার্দার মুর্দামার মুর্দা

A reflection of a face is undeniably a common locus of (1) being empty of the eyes, ears, and such that appear [in the mirror] and (2) being generated in dependence upon a mirror and a face, while disintegrating when any of these conditions are lacking. Likewise, . . .

स्त्रम्थास्य स्वाप्ता स्वर्षे । स्वर्षा स्वर्षे स्वर्षा स्वर्षे स्वर्षा स्वर्षे स्वरत् स्वर्षे स्वर्षे स्वर्षे स्वर्ये स्वयं स्वयं स्वयं स्वर्ये स्वयं स्वयं स्वयं स्वयं स्वर

... you should train yourself to think that it is not contradictory that the person has not even a particle of intrinsic nature, yet is the accumulator of karma and the experiencer of effects, and has been generated in dependence on earlier karma and afflictions. Understand that it is like this in all [other] cases.

# Lama Tsongkhapa's Illumination of the Thought (dbu ma dgongs pa rab gsal - ব্যুম্ব্র্ম্ব্র্ম্ব্র্ম্ব্র্ম্ব্র্র্

५८:र्भ (केंश इस्र स हेंग पर ५५०८ वीस रहेंग हुंया) है।

HOW PHENOMENA ARE POSITED THROUGH THE POWER OF CONCEPTUAL CONSCIOUSNESS

के.चर.पर्चर.ग्रीश.विश्व.त.जश

The Questions of Upali [Sutra] states:

ब्रुक्तिम् स्थित् द्वादः स्थितः स इयते स्थितः स इयते स्थितः स्यतः स्थितः स्

Blossomed flowers pleasing myriad minds; Eminent golden mansions resplendent and attractive — Here, with regard to those, no-one created them; They are posited through the power of conceptual consciousness; Through the power of conceptual consciousness the world is imputed

# र्केशः व्रम्भः उदः हेर्गाः प्रशः चारुण्याः पर्वमः दृदः हेर्गाः पर्वः दृद्यदः जीशः चत्रुणाः पराम् सुद्रशः पाण्यत् स्परः सदः हेर्ग

It is taught that phenomena are posited through the power of conceptual consciousnesses. There are many other [texts] that describe phenomena as merely imputed by conceptual consciousness and as posited through the power of conceptual consciousness.

# |र्यायायार्यमाञ्चारा

[Nagarjuna's] Sixty Verses of Reasoning also says:

वहेमाहेब्रः अन्त्रमाहेब्रः उद्गा । मारः ध्रेनः ह्याश्वः यदेः श्वरः मुश्यः माशुरः शा। । नेः भोः ध्रेनः व्यवेमाहेब्रः वदी । । इसः हेमाः भेवः विश्वः छैशः से व्यवना

That the world is conditioned by ignorance, Was taught by the perfect Buddha. So why would it not be feasible for this world To be [a product of] conceptual consciousness?

ইঝানাধুদ্ৰথামন বিদ্বানাধ্যম বিদ্বান্ধ বিদ্বানাধ্যম বিদ্বান্ধ বিদ্বানাধ্যম বিদ্বান্ধ বিদ্বানাধ্যম বিদ্বান্ধ বিদ্

#### ロ型にいるが、近て、1

[Aryadeva's] Four Hundred Stanzas states:

# हेंनाया क्षेत्रायम् वर्षेत्राक्षत्या । स्थित्राक्षाया व्यक्तित्रा व्यक्ति । स्थित् व्यक्ति । स्थित् व्यक्ति । स्थित् व्यक्ति । स्थिति । स

Without conceptual consciousness,
Desire and so forth have no existence,
What intelligent person would grasp at
"The real object and conceptual consciousness"

## बिशनासुरसःविरःदेवे वर्षोवःसःवसःगुरः।

In [Chandrakirti's] commentary [on the Four Hundred Stanzas] it also says:

Only based on the existence of conceptual consciousness do they exist and without conceptual consciousness their existence does not come to be. Without doubt, they are like a snake imputed upon a coiled rope — definitely without being established by way of their own nature.

# विश्वानाशुर्श्वाने प्यराद्या देवा है सरामी देशिया मुदाय हो। हिना या है देश्या ना हेशिया है सुरा ना है से कि सु

"Real object" refers to existence by way of its own nature, while "conceptual consciousness" is generated in dependence on that.

In the commentary, the explanation of desire being like a snake that is imputed on a rope is only an illustration. It indicates that all other phenomena are also posited by conceptual consciousness, like a snake that is imputed on a rope.

With respect to a rope that is similar to a snake owing to its multi-colored pattern and the way it is coiled, when it appears in a place that is not well-lit, the thought, "this is a snake" may arise.

# 

At that time, from the side of the rope, whether in terms of the collection [of the parts] of the snake or its [individual] parts, there is not the slightest instance of a snake. Thus, the [rope-] snake is merely labelled by a conceptual consciousness.

[ने:पलेब:नु:सुट:सं:य:पहेब:ब्रथ:टर्व:क्षुअ:य:यनुट:पव। सुट:संवै:क्षुट:बन:ग्रुट:योन:ने:क्रुश:य:प्रेताब:वकन:र्न्। नु:पलेब:नु:सुट:सं:य:पहेब:ब्रथ:टर्व:क्षुअ:य:यनुट:पव। सुट:संवै:क्षुट:बन:ग्रुट:योन:ने:क्रुश:य:प्रेताब:वकन:र्न्।

Similarly, when in dependence on the aggregates the thought "I" arises, on the part of the aggregates — whether in terms of a collection of earlier and later continuums or in terms of simultaneous continuums or in terms of their parts — there is nothing that can be posited as an instance of that ["I"]. This will be explained in detail below.

Because of that [reason] and also because there is nothing in the slightest which is of a different nature from the parts or part-possessors of the aggregates that can be apprehended as its basis, the "I" is merely posited by a conceptual consciousness in dependence on the aggregates, without existing by way of its own nature.

१८९ दे दे दे के अपने स्तर से स्तर से स्तर से स

This has also been taught in [Nagarjuna's] *Precious Garland*:

The individual is not earth, not water, Not fire, not wind, not space, Not consciousness, and if he is not all of them, What individual is there other than them?

श्रात्रेत्रात्त्रेत्रेत्रात् गुत्रात्वे इस्रावेश्यर्ग्यायात् । त्रात्रे स्रावेश्यर्ग्यायात् । त्रित्रे स्रावेश्यय्ये स्रावेश्यर्ग्यायात् । त्रित्रे स्रावेश्यय्ये स्रावेश्यये स्रावेश्यय्ये स्रावेश्यये स्रावेश्यय्ये स्रावेश्यय्ये स्रावेश्यये स्राव

Here, "individual" refers to the person, the sentient being, the "I" or the self. "[The words] "not earth" until "not consciousness" refute that the person is posited as being the six elements of the sentient being, which are his parts, while [the words] "not all of them" refute that the person is posited as being the collection of the constituents. The last line [of the verse] refutes that the person is posited as being of a different nature than the constituents. Nonetheless, this does not mean that one does not accept [the existence of] the person, nor that one accepts that the "mind-basis of all" and so forth is the person.

### वर्षोवायासर्दियम्यावग्रवायायास्य स्वर्मम्यायास्य स्वर्

Therefore, just as it has been elucidated by the author of our commentary, [Chandrakirti], Arya [Nagarjuna] also accepts that.

|ग्रादः बगःहेंगः प्रश्नायत्वनाः सुनाशः देः सूरः स्विशः त्व। केंशः ग्राव्यः व्ययश्चरः ग्रादः हेंगः प्रशः चल्याः सुनाशः देः द्वरः सूरे।

If one understands the way in which the person is posited by conceptual consciousness, [one will understand] that all other phenomena are posited by conceptual consciousness in the same way.

|हैट्टेयहेंब्र्च्चित्र्चेक्ष्याचन्यायोः वर्ड्खेक्ष्ये। ।विकायाने विकायाने विकायाने विकायाने विकायाने विकायाने

#### From the *King of Meditative Stabilization* [Sutra]:

Just as you perceive the notion of the self, So should you mentally apply this to all.

#### The Arya Condensed [Perfection of Wisdom Sutra] also states:

Just as the self, understand all sentient beings; Just as all sentient beings, understand all phenomena.

विश्वामाश्चर्याः विराः देवाक्षेत्रायः व्यव्यामा

[Nagarjuna's] Precious Garland also says clearly:

भुकातु विस्रकातु से से प्रत्याधीय । विद्याधीय प्रत्याक्षेत्र से स्था विद्याधीय प्रत्याक्षेत्र से स्था विद्याधीय प्रत्याक्षेत्र से स्था विद्याधीय प्रत्याक्षेत्र से स्था विद्याधीय प्रत्याक्षेत्र स्था विद्याधीय स्थाधीय स्था विद्याधीय स्थाधीय स्था विद्याधीय स्थाधीय स्था विद्याधीय स्थाधीय स्था विद्याधीय स्थाध

Since an individual is a composite of the six constituents, He is not real, and likewise Since each of the constituents is also A composite, they are not real.

बिश्वायश्वायः याश्चरश्वा । मिर्यायः प्रदेश्चेरा विश्वायश्वायः प्रदेशः यात्राश्चरश्वा । मिर्यायः प्रदेश्चेरा के कि स्वतः प्रदेशः यात्रायः य

The meaning of the first line is to state [the reason], "since the individual is imputed in dependence on the composite of the six constituents". The meaning of the third and fourth lines is that because it is impossible [for something] not to have parts and part-possessors, each of the constituents is also imputed in dependence upon the composite of its many parts.

# | प्यरः न्याः तुः स्त्रेः स्टः यो देः येश्वः स्वर्थः विश्वः स्वर्थः यद्भः सः यथः यहेतः स्वरः स्वरः स्वरः स्वरः | प्यरः न्याः तुः स्त्रेः स्वरः यो देः यहेशः यथः स्वरः स

Therefore, [the person and the six constituents] are not real, that is, they do not exist by way of their own nature. Furthermore, if something is imputed in dependence on the composite of its parts, the parts and the part-possessor cannot be posited as the thing itself. Yet it is also impossible for something that is of a different entity from these to be that thing.

Even though only the manner in which a vase, etc., is posited by conceptual consciousness is similar to [the manner in which] a snake is imputed on a rope, the vase and the rope-snake are completely different in terms of whether they exist or not and whether or not they are able to perform the function [of a vase or a snake].

# च्यक्षरःश्चीःचःक्षरःदेशःयरःश्चर्त्वाकःक्षेत्रःह्याः चःक्षरःश्चरःश्चरःयःव्यानार्वेदःयःव्येदःक्षेत्रःक्षेत्रःक्ष चयकःउदःद्वेत्रःव्यावदेश्चेरःक्षे

This is because these two differ in many ways, such as with regard to whether their verbal conventions (e.g., the verbal convention of a vase is "vase") must be used or not and whether those conventions are susceptible to invalidation [by valid cognition], and so forth.

ब्रुम् स्राप्तम् प्रत्ये। |स्राप्तम् मुस्य पश्चित्र प्रत्ये प

Regarding the tenability of actions [in a world of] imputation by conceptual consciousness: among the commentators of the words and meaning [of the scriptures], the system of elucidating [the works of] Arya Nagarjuna and his son [Aryadeva] by the three — Buddhapalita, Shantideva, and this master [Chandrakirti] — is unique.

## १८तुःसदेःसूःचःसवरःशुमायदेःदगादःसःसदःददेःहेदःर्दे।

That (*i.e.*, tenability of actions) is in fact also the most difficult [issue] of the Madhyamika view.

# <u>। ने सूर मुराज र रेज के ज तसे ट पायश</u>

[Nagarjuna's] **Precious Garland** says:

पञ्चन्यात्रात्त्रित्यात्रात्र्यात्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्य

Since physical things are mere names,

Space too is merely name;

How can there be form with no elements?

Therefore, mere name does not exist either.

# |यर्यायुष्यः दुः वेश्यव्यक्षः दुः हो | देः द्वेशः विश्वव्यक्षः दुः वाय्यः वेशः विश्वव्यक्षः द्वाः विश्ववः द्वा |क्षेत्रः द्वाः विश्वव्यक्षः विश्वव्यक्षः विश्वव्यक्षः विश्ववः विश्ववः विश्ववः विश्ववः विश्ववः विश्ववः विश्ववः

Feeling, discrimination, volition and Consciousness are to be contemplated Just like the elements and the self; Therefore the six constituents are selfless.

<u>|विश्र'55'|</u>

And:

विश्व त्या त्या विश्व त्या विश्व विश्व

Apart from imputed conventions What world is there, in fact, To exist or not?

१डेसर्देव द्रमायम् स्रोट र्डसाय्य स्रोदाय द्रमा वास्त्र द्राची वा

Ultimately even mere names do not exist. Nothing, whatsoever, exists except for that which is conventionally posited through the power of names or verbal conventions; just as this is stated [in the *Precious Garland*], [phenomena] exist as merely nominal imputations.

ल्याकात्तरात्रकात्तरात्त्वीरात्त्र्।

प्रमाकात्त्रकात्तरात्त्वीरात्त्र्।

प्रमाकात्त्रकात्तरात्त्रकात्तरात्त्र विकान्तरात्त्रकात्त्रकात्त्रकात्त्रकात्त्रकात्त्रकात्त्रकात्त्रकात्त्रकात्त्रक्षात्रकात्त्त्रकात्त्रकात्त्रकात्त्रकात्त्रकात्त्रकात्त्रकात्त्रकात्त्रकात्त्रकात्त्रकात्तिकात्त्रकात्त्रकात्त्रकात्त्त्रकात्त्रकात्त्रकात्त्

If this is well understood, one will understand the following well: (a) all phenomena need to be posited dependently; (b) on account of being dependently imputed and having been generated in dependence, [phenomena] have no existence by way of their own nature; (c) they do not possess an independent nature, something that is not posited through the power of verbal conventions that are other [than the phenomena themselves]; and (d) no matter what phenomenon there is, it is posited without searching [for its inherent existence].

# Lama Tsongkhapa's Essence of Eloquent Speech (drang nges legs bshad snying po - ব্ৰহ্মের্ম্ব্রম্ব্র্ম্ব্র্র্ম্ব্র্র্ম্ব্র্র্ম্ব্র্র্

पत्पत्त्र्याम्हेष्यायत्त्रप्तात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र विद्यात्राहेष्यात्रात्यात्रपत्त्रात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र

One may [wrongly] assume that since a mundane person engages in a lot of analysis — "it is coming, it is not coming; it has been generated, it has not been generated", and so forth — it is not proper to say [in response] to such inquiries, "it is coming!" or "it has been generated!"

# वदेवःवर्ष्ट्यास्याद्याद्रात्राद्याद्यात्रात्रात्रात्रात्रात्रास्रो

However, this way of investigating and the above manner of analyzing (*i.e.*, engaging in ultimate analysis) are very different.

वर्षाक्षेत्रवर्षे वित्राचित्रवर्षे वित्रक्षेत्रक्षेत्रवर्षे वित्रक्षेत्रवर्षे वित्रक्षेत्रक्षेत्रक्षेत्रक्षेत् वर्षे वित्रक्षेत्रक्षेत्रक्षेत्रक्षेत्रक्षेत्रक्षेत्रक्षेत्रक्षेत्रक्षेत्रक्षेत्रक्षेत्रक्षेत्रक्षेत्रक्षेत्रक

The [mundane person] does not inquire into coming and going by analyzing the objects that are imputed — imputed by the verbal conventions, "the one who is coming", "the one who is going", "coming", and "going" — owing to dissatisfaction with [the fact that the objects] are merely imputed.

यात्रमायान्त्रः हिना प्रति। वर्षो त्रिंद्रा मी श्रम्भूतः स्टान्मायः प्रस्ति। याः याः स्टान्मायः प्रति। याः स्वाप्यान्त्रः स्वाप्यान्त

Instead, he engages in ordinary examination into the ordinary application of the verbal conventions for coming and going. Therefore, how can there be any contradiction when one asserts [that a mundane person engages in] examination?

Grasping at the existence of an essence that is established by way of its own characteristics after having analyzed the object of the verbal convention is not the grasping of an innate self-grasping [awareness].

श्रेमश्रुपः हे पूर्वेर प्रत्येर प्रत्ये प्रमुक्त श्रुक्त श्रेमश्रेत प्रमुक्त प्रमुक्त

Since sentient beings are bound in samsara by the innate [self-grasping], [it is] mainly the [innate self-grasping that] needs to be stopped in reliance on reasoning.

<u>ने के क्षे क्रम्प के क्रम्प क्ष्म क्ष्म प्राप्त प्रमाण प्रमाण क्रम क्षम क्ष्म क्ष</u>

If one asks, how does [the innate self-grasping] grasp [at its object]? It grasps at internal and external phenomena as existing by way of their own nature without being merely posited through the power of verbal conventions.